

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
127TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND
CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

August 2015

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STATE OF MAINE

127TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION



LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND ENACTED LAWS

This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* contains summaries of all LDs and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 127th Maine Legislature.

The *Digest* is arranged alphabetically by committee and within each committee by Legislative Document (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor and lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each LD title. All adopted amendments are summarized and listed by paper number. A subject index is included with each committee. An appendix provides a summary of relevant session statistics.

Final action on each LD is noted to the right of the LD title. The following describes the various final actions.

<i>CARRIED OVER</i>	<i>carried over to a subsequent session of the Legislature</i>
<i>CON RES XXX</i>	<i>chapter # of constitutional resolution passed by both houses</i>
<i>CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE</i>	<i>Committee of Conference unable to agree; legislation died</i>
<i>DIED BETWEEN HOUSES</i>	<i>House & Senate disagreed; legislation died</i>
<i>DIED IN CONCURRENCE</i>	<i>defeated in each house, but on different motions; legislation died</i>
<i>DIED ON ADJOURNMENT</i>	<i>action incomplete when session ended; legislation died</i>
<i>EMERGENCY</i>	<i>enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days after session adjournment</i>
<i>FAILED, EMERGENCY ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE</i>	<i>emergency failed to receive required 2/3 vote</i>
<i>FAILED, ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE</i>	<i>failed to receive final majority vote</i>
<i>FAILED, MANDATE ENACTMENT</i>	<i>legislation proposing local mandate failed required 2/3 vote</i>
<i>HELD BY GOVERNOR</i>	<i>Governor has not signed; final disposition to be determined at subsequent session</i>
<i>LEAVE TO WITHDRAW</i>	<i>sponsor's request to withdraw legislation granted</i>
<i>NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY</i>	<i>ruled out of order by the presiding officer; legislation died</i>
<i>INDEF PP</i>	<i>indefinitely postponed; legislation died</i>
<i>ONTP, ACCEPTED, MAJORITY, MINORITY or REPORT X</i>	<i>ought-not-to-pass report accepted; legislation died</i>
<i>P&S XXX</i>	<i>chapter # of enacted private & special law</i>
<i>PUBLIC XXX</i>	<i>chapter # of enacted public law</i>
<i>RESOLVE XXX</i>	<i>chapter # of finally passed resolve</i>
<i>VETO SUSTAINED</i>	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's veto</i>

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session of the 127th Legislature is October 15, 2015. The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure may be found in the enacted law summary for that legislation.

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the operation of a school administrative unit's support system approved in accordance with the provisions of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 13015.

4. It provides that an individual who has not completed a master's degree program and who is issued a teacher certificate in accordance with Title 20-A, chapter 502 on or after July 1, 2015 may not receive a renewed certificate or a new teaching certificate unless the individual completes a master's degree program within five years of being employed as a teacher in the State.

5. It increases the minimum salaries for certified teachers to \$40,000 beginning in the 2016-2017 school year and includes state funding for the incremental costs of meeting this minimum as part of the school funding formula.

6. It requires the Department of Education to increase the qualifying scores for the standardized qualifying examinations for applicants for initial teacher certification in its Rule Chapter 13: Qualifying Examinations for Teachers, Educational Specialists and Administrators no later than July 1, 2016.

7. It provides additional appropriations for the Educators for Maine Program within the Finance Authority of Maine in order to double the annual investment of state loan funds awarded to eligible students.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session of the 127th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 992.

LD 1386 An Act To Amend the Laws Governing High School Graduation Requirements

Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KORNFIELD	ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill amends the current education statutes related to requirements for awarding a high school diploma to establish a blended system of graduation requirements that provides that a diploma indicating graduation from a secondary school must be awarded to students who accumulate at least 20 academic credits documenting the successful completion of courses and demonstrate proficiency in meeting state standards in at least two content areas of the system of learning results established under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 6209. The bill also provides that a school administrative unit may award an endorsement of content area proficiency to a student who has demonstrated proficiency in a content area of the system of learning results. This bill accomplishes the following.

1. It amends the basic school approval standards that guide curriculum and instruction and promote student advancement and graduation to include language for transitioning to the blended system. Specifically, it provides that a school administrative unit's comprehensive education plan must include a plan for transitioning to the blended system.

2. It provides that, beginning in the 2016-2017 school year, diplomas must be awarded to students who meet the new curriculum and instructional requirements established for secondary schools and school boards must adopt policies to phase in these new requirements.

3. It strikes the provision that would repeal, on July 1, 2020, the standards for awarding high school diplomas to secondary school students who successfully complete courses required for graduation in accordance with Title 20-A, section 4722, thus providing that these standards will continue to apply as part of the blended system.

4. It removes the requirement that a diploma indicating graduation from a secondary school on or after January 1, 2017 must be based on student demonstration of proficiency in all content areas established under the system of

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learning results and instead provides that a diploma indicating graduation must be based on student demonstration of proficiency in at least two content areas established under the system of learning results.

5. It provides that an endorsement of content area proficiency must be included in a student's academic transcript as an official credential of academic achievement of content area proficiency.

6. It directs the Department of Education to adopt or amend rules pursuant to Title 20-A, section 253, subsection 9 by December 31, 2015 in order to implement the new blended system beginning with the 2016-2017 school year.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-352)

This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, incorporates a fiscal note.

LD 1394	An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Commission To Strengthen the Adequacy and Equity of Certain Cost Components of the School Funding Formula	CARRIED OVER
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<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>

This bill is reported out by the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs pursuant to Resolve 2013, chapter 114, section 10. The bill incorporates changes to the education statutes and rules proposed by the Commission To Strengthen the Adequacy and Equity of Certain Cost Components of the School Funding Formula that the commission's report indicated are necessary to implement its recommendations.

The joint standing committee has not taken a position on the substance of the report or this bill, and by submitting this bill the joint standing committee is not suggesting and does not intend to suggest that it agrees or disagrees with any aspect of the recommendations and the necessary changes to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, included in the report or this bill. The committee is submitting the bill for the sole purpose of turning the proposals in the report into a printed bill that can be referred to the joint standing committee for an appropriate public hearing and subsequent processing in the normal course of business. The joint standing committee is taking this action to ensure clarity and transparency in the legislative review of the proposals included in the report submitted by the commission.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session of the 127th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 992.

LD 1396	An Act Regarding Educational Standards for Maine Students	Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report
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<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GERRISH EDGEComb P	ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill provides Maine students and teachers with high-quality content standards that have been demonstrated as some of the best state standards in the nation. The bill accomplishes the following with regard to the statewide content standards, statewide assessment programs, the comparison of recent and proposed content standards and statewide assessment programs and the release of personally identifiable data.

With regard to content standards, the bill: